

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A national security method of obstructing which functions as a prerequisite to a person from wishing to negotiate negotiating a transaction with another person, group, or entity in a population and selectively obstructing the person from negotiating the transaction, comprising the steps of:

- a) selecting for each person in ~~a selected section of a~~ the population of a country an identifying biometric characteristic unique to that person;
- b) determining profile information of each person in the population;
- c) storing the identifying characteristic and the profile information of each person in the population in individual portable data devices to be carried by respective persons, the data devices including an active status and an inactive status;
- d) storing the identifying characteristic and the profile information of each person in the population collectively at a central location;

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- e) determining an identifying biometric characteristic and the profile information of a person wishing to negotiate a transaction from the portable data device carried by the person;
- f) comparing the identifying characteristic and the profile information determined in step e) with the corresponding identifying characteristic and the profile information prestored in step d) for a successful or unsuccessful comparison;
- g) obtaining a portion of the profile information and a biometric characteristic directly from the person in step e);
- h) comparing the identifying characteristic and the profile information obtained in steps e) and g) for a successful or unsuccessful comparison;
- i) determining an active or inactive status of the data device carried by the person in step e);
- j) obstructing the person in step e) from negotiating the transaction if an unsuccessful comparison is indicated in either steps f) or h), or if the status of the data device is determined to be inactive in step i); ~~and~~
- k) notifying an appropriate authority if the status of the data device is determined to be inactive in step i) ~~); and~~); and
- l) wherein the person in step e) is barred from negotiating any transaction with any person, group, or entity in the population if an

unsuccessful comparison is indicated in any of the steps f), h), or
i).

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Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step
of:

h) m) further obstructing the person obstructed from negotiating the
transaction in step j) from negotiating any subsequent transaction
with any other person, group, or entity in the population.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 2, wherein:

the authority comprises a law enforcement authority.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the value of the transaction in step e) is at least \$100.00.

Claim 5 (original): The method of Claim 4, wherein:

the biometric characteristic is selected from the group consisting of
fingerprint, hand print, retinal scan, and voice sample.

Claim 6 (original): The method of Claim 5, wherein:

the portable data device comprises an electronically, magnetically,
electromagnetically, optically, or electrooptically codable card.

Claim 7 (original): The method of Claim 6, wherein:

the profile information includes one or more of name, address, date of birth, country of citizenship, type and duration of immigration visa, passport number and the country of issuance, and criminal record.

Claim 8 (original): The method of Claim 7, wherein:

the transaction comprises a transaction category selected from the group consisting of seeking entry into a country, seeking financial or social assistance from a private or government entity, seeking employment, securing housing, securing goods, securing lodging or boarding, seeking education or training, traveling, and seeking medical assistance.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

- h) m) updating the profile information of the person in step e) obstructed in step j) to include details of the transaction, the details comprising one or more of the following:
- i) amount of transaction;
 - ii) identity of the person, group, or entity with whom the transaction was being negotiated by the person in step e);
- and

iii) the category of the transaction.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of:

h) m) further updating the profile information of the person in step e) obstructed in step j) to include details of each transaction attempted to be negotiated by the person subsequent to the transaction in step e).

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

h) m) converting the data device to an inactive status upon the occurrence of an event.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 11, wherein:

the event comprises expiration of a pre-fixed duration of time period.

Claim 13 (original): The method of Claim 7, wherein:

the central location comprises a remote location; and
the step f) is carried out by accessing a computer located at the

remote location by a wired or wireless communication, or the Internet.

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Claim 14 (currently amended): A national security method ~~of obstructing which~~
functions as a prerequisite to a person from negotiating wishing to negotiate a second
or subsequent transaction with another person, group, or entity in a population, and
selectively obstructing the person from negotiating the second or subsequent
transaction where the person has been obstructed from negotiating a first transaction,
comprising the steps of:

- a) selecting for each person in a ~~selected section~~ the population of a
~~population~~ country an identifying biometric characteristic unique to
that person;
- b) determining profile information of each person in the population;
- c) storing the identifying characteristic and the profile information of
each person in the population in individual portable data devices
to be carried by respective persons, the data devices including an
active status and an inactive status;
- d) storing the identifying characteristic and the profile information of
each person in the population collectively at a central location;
- e) determining an identifying biometric characteristic and the profile
information of a person wishing to negotiate a second or
subsequent transaction from the portable data device carried by
the person;

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- f) comparing the identifying characteristic and the profile information determined in step e) with the corresponding identifying characteristic and the profile information prestored in step d) for a successful or unsuccessful comparison;
 - g) obtaining a portion of the profile information and a biometric characteristic directly from the person in step e);
 - h) comparing the identifying characteristic and the profile information obtained in steps e) and g) for a successful or unsuccessful comparison;
 - i) determining an active or inactive status of the data device carried by the person in step e);
 - j) obstructing the person in step e) from negotiating the second or subsequent transaction if an unsuccessful comparison is indicated in either steps f) or h), or if the status of the data device is determined to be inactive in step i); and
 - k) notifying an appropriate authority if the status of the data device is determined to be inactive in step i) [[.]] ; and
 - l) wherein the person in step e) is barred from negotiating any second or subsequent transaction with any person, group, or entity in the population if an unsuccessful comparison is indicated in any of the steps f), h), or i).

Claim 15 (original): The method of Claim 14, wherein:

the value of the first transaction is at least \$150.00; and

the value of the second or subsequent transaction is lower than
the value of the first or previous transaction by a predetermined amount.

Claim 16 (original): The method of Claim 15, wherein:

the predetermined amount is \$50.00

Claim 17 (currently amended): A national security system for obstructing a person from negotiating a transaction with another person, group, or entity in a population, comprising:

- a) a national security card to be carried by each person in ~~a selected section of a~~ the population of a country;
- b) said national security card comprising prestored profile information of a person carrying said card and an identifying biometric characteristic unique ~~to each~~ that person;
- c) a card reader comprising a biometric scanner;
- d) said card reader including a first processing unit for comparing the biometric characteristic stored on the national security card of a person with the biometric characteristic obtained directly from that person for a successful or unsuccessful comparison;

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- e) a remote second processing unit including prestored profile information and an identifying biometric characteristic of each person in the ~~selected section of the~~ population;
- f) a communication link between said card reader and said second processing unit;
- g) one of said first processing unit and said second processing unit for comparing the profile information and the biometric characteristic stored on the national security card with the profile information and the biometric characteristic prestored on said second processing unit for a successful or unsuccessful comparison;
- h) one of said card reader and said remote processing unit including means for determining the active or inactive status of the national security card and communicating an inactive status to a predetermined authority; and
- i) said card reader including active and inactive indicator for indicating the active or inactive status of the national security card;
- j) whereby an inactive status of the national security card obstructs a person from negotiating ~~[[a]]~~ any transaction with ~~any another~~ person, group, or entity in ~~[[a]]~~ the population.

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Claim 18 (original): The security system of Claim 17, wherein:

said communication link comprises a wired or wireless link, or the
Internet.

Claim 19 (original): The security system of Claim 18, wherein:

the biometric characteristic is selected from the group consisting of
fingerprint, hand print, retinal scan, and voice sample.

Claim 20 (original): The security system of Claim 19, wherein:

the transaction has a value of at least \$100.00.
